

Amendments to claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 8, 9, 11, 20, 21 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend claims 1-4, 7, 12-16, 19 and 24 as shown.

1. (currently amended): A method for removing a pathogen from a pharmaceutically active molecule present in biological liquids comprising the steps of:

providing a biological liquid comprising at least one pharmaceutically active molecule and at least one pathogen in an apparatus, said apparatus comprising an anode, a cathode and **at least one separation membrane and at least two restriction membranes**, ~~a membrane-containing separation means~~, **wherein at least one of said separation and restriction membranes is** suitable for separating said at least one pathogen from said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule, **and wherein said membranes are** ~~membrane-containing separation means being positioned between said anode and said cathode~~, **wherein at least one of said at least one separation membrane has a molecular weight cutoff that is higher than but less than three times greater than the molecular weight cutoff of at least two of said at least two restriction membranes**;

applying current between said anode and said cathode, thereby causing said at least one pathogen or said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule to pass through said **at least one separation membrane** ~~means~~, wherein substantially all transmembrane migration of said at least one pathogen or said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule is initiated by the application of said current; and

removing said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule in liquid form and essentially free from said at least one pathogen.

2. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1 wherein said **at least one separation membrane and said at least two restriction membranes are** ~~membrane-containing separation means is a membrane-filtration~~ **membranes** ~~means~~.

3. (currently amended): The method according to claim 2 wherein said ~~membrane~~ filtration **membranes are** ~~means is an~~ ultrafiltration **membranes** ~~membrane~~.

4. (currently amended): The method according to claim 2 wherein said ~~membrane~~ filtration membranes are means is a nanofiltration membranes membrane.

5. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1 wherein said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule is a protein.

6. (previously presented): The method according to claim 5 wherein said protein is a blood protein.

7. (currently amended): The method according to claim 5 wherein said protein is smaller than said at least one pathogen such that said protein is able to pass through said at least one separation membrane ~~membrane-containing separation means~~ but said pathogen is not able to pass through said at least one separation membrane ~~membrane-containing separation means~~.

8-9. (cancelled).

10. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1 wherein said at least one pathogen is selected from the group consisting of viruses, bacteria, prions and combinations thereof.

11. (cancelled).

12. (currently amended): An apparatus for removing pathogens from pharmaceutically active molecules present in biological fluids, comprising:

a container for uptake of a biological fluid, said biological fluid comprising at least one pharmaceutically active molecule and at least one pathogen;

an anode, a cathode and at least one separation membrane and at least two restriction membranes, a membrane-containing separation means wherein at least one of said separation and restriction membranes is suitable for separating said at least one pathogen from said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule, and wherein said membranes are ~~membrane-containing separation means being positioned between said anode and said cathode, wherein at least one of said at least one~~

separation membrane has a molecular weight cutoff that is higher than but less than three times greater than the molecular weight cutoff of at least two of said at least two restriction membranes;

means for removing either said at least one pathogen or said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule having passed through said **at least one** separation **membrane** means; and

a current supply and means for applying said current between said anode and said cathode, wherein substantially all transmembrane migration of said at least one pathogen or said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule is initiated by the application of said current.

13. (currently amended): A method for removing a pathogen from a pharmaceutically active molecule present in biological liquids, comprising:

providing a biological liquid comprising at least one pharmaceutically active molecule and at least one pathogen in an apparatus, said apparatus comprising an anode, a cathode and **at least one separation membrane and at least two restriction membranes**, ~~a membrane containing separation means,~~ **wherein at least one of said separation and restriction membranes is** suitable for separating said at least one pathogen from said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule, **and wherein said membranes are** ~~membrane containing separation means being positioned between said anode and said cathode,~~ **wherein at least one of said at least one separation membrane has a molecular weight cutoff that is higher than but less than three times greater than the molecular weight cutoff of at least two of said at least two restriction membranes;**

applying current between said anode and said cathode, thereby causing said at least one pathogen or said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule to pass through said **at least one** separation **membrane** means, ~~said separation means containing a selective membrane that allows passage of either said at least one pathogen or said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule through the membrane,~~ while preventing the other from entering therethrough, wherein substantially all transmembrane migration of said at least one pathogen or said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule is initiated by the application of said current;

optionally, periodically stopping and reversing said current; and

removing said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule in liquid form and essentially free from said at least one pathogen.

14. (currently amended): The method according to claim 13 wherein said at least one separation membrane and said at least two restriction membranes are ~~membrane-containing separation means is a membrane-filtration~~ membranes means.

15. (currently amended): The method according to claim 14 wherein said ~~membrane~~ filtration membranes are ~~means is an~~ ultrafiltration membranes ~~membrane~~.

16. (currently amended): The method according to claim 14 wherein said ~~membrane~~ filtration membranes are ~~means is a~~ nanofiltration membranes ~~membrane~~.

17. (previously presented): The method according to claim 14 wherein said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule is a protein.

18. (previously presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said protein is a blood protein.

19. (currently amended): The method according to claim 17 wherein said protein is smaller than said at least one pathogen such that said protein is able to pass through said at least one separation membrane ~~membrane-containing separation means~~ but said pathogen is not able to pass through said at least one separation membrane ~~membrane-containing separation means~~.

20-21. (cancelled).

22. (previously presented): The method according to claim 13 wherein said at least one pathogen is selected from the group consisting of viruses, bacteria, prions and combinations thereof.

23. (cancelled).

24. (currently amended): An apparatus for removing pathogens from pharmaceutically active molecules present in biological fluids, comprising:

a container for uptake of a biological fluid, said biological fluid comprising at least one pharmaceutically active molecule and at least one pathogen;

an anode, a cathode and at least one separation membrane and at least two restriction membranes, ~~a membrane-containing separation means~~, wherein at least one of said separation and restriction membranes is suitable for separating said at least one pathogen from said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule, wherein said membranes are ~~membrane-containing separation means~~ positioned between said anode and said cathode, and wherein at least one of said at least one separation membrane has a molecular weight cutoff that is higher than but less than three times greater than the molecular weight cutoff of at least two of said at least two restriction membranes and wherein said at least one selective membrane ~~containing a selective membrane that allows passage of either said at least one pathogen or said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule through said at least one separation membrane, while preventing the other from entering therethrough, and being positioned between said anode and said cathode;~~

means for removing either said at least one pathogen or said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule having passed through said at least one separation membrane; and

a current supply and means for applying said current between said anode and said cathode, wherein substantially all transmembrane migration of said at least one pathogen or said at least one pharmaceutically active molecule is initiated by the application of said current.